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TABLE 3.3 Aquifer and Well Characteristics in Massachusetts
Aquifer name and description
Well characteristics
Depth (ft)
Common May range exceed
Yield (gal/min)
Common May range exceed
Remarks
Stratified-drift aquifer:1 Sand and gravel with silt, glacial outwash, ice-contact, and delta deposits; some beach and dune deposits included. Moraines also contain till. Generally unconfined, locally confined.
Sedimentary bedrock aquifer: Red sandstone, shale, arkosic conglomerate, and basaltic lava flow. Generally, unconfined, confined at depth.
Carbonate rock aquifer: Limestone, dolomite, and marble. Confined.
Crystalline bedrock aquifer: Metamorphic and igneous rock predominantly gneiss and schist. Confined.

60-120	200	100-1,000	2,000
100-250	500	10-100	500
100-300	1,000	1-50	1,000
100-400	1,000	1-20	

300
Used extensively for public supply; also used for industry, fish hatcheries, agriculture, and rural supplies. Locally, large iron or manganese concentrations a problem. Some saline water intrusion in coastal areas. Low pH of water may corrode pipes and appliances.
Used for rural supplies and some industry. Deep wells produce hard water.
Used for rural supplies and some industry Water hard.
Used for rural supplies. Locally, large iron concentrations a problem. Recently drilled wells generally deeper than older wells. Low pH of water may corrode pipes and appliances.
'Well depths and yields reported for stratified drift are for public supply wells. Rural domestic wells yield 5 to 80 gal/min from l'/2 to 2*/2 inch diameter well screens, 3 to 5 ft in length. SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey, 1984.